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(Chronicle-Telegram Version)

Collection: Gene W. Poor Digital Archive

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Title of Work: *Elyria Student Builds Miniature Bowling Alley*

Author / Reporter: Fran Bostwick

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Short Description / Subject: A Chronicle-Telegram feature on Gene W. Poor's construction of a one-third-scale bowling alley and automatic pinsetter while he was a senior at Kent State University. The article highlights the ingenuity, time, and engineering skill behind the project.

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Miniature Bowling Alley and Automatic Pinsetter Project (1965)

This *Chronicle-Telegram* feature documents the early engineering work of Gene W. Poor, a senior at Kent State University majoring in industrial arts. Inspired by a full-size alley he observed in operation, Poor designed and built a one-third-scale bowling alley complete with Formica lane, miniature pins and balls, and an automatic pinsetter mechanism. He completed the project with assistance from longtime friend David Nagy of Elyria.

Constructed in the basement of his aunt's home at 943 North West River St., the alley required more than 1,000 hours of work, approximately 800 feet of wiring, and over 5,000 screws. Poor traveled home each weekend for several months to continue assembly, relying heavily on trial-and-error problem-solving throughout the process. Although originally a personal hobby, Poor hoped the project might eventually earn college credit or become the subject of a magazine article. The Chronicle-Telegram praised the creativity and mechanical ingenuity behind the work, noting that while Poor might not be the city's best bowler, he excelled in design and originality.

Newspaper feature documenting the construction of Gene W. Poor's one-third-scale bowling alley and automatic pinsetter in 1965.

Elyrian returns weekends, builds own bowling alley

By FRAN BOSTWICK

An Elyria college student may not be able to bowl a perfect game, but he has proven his ability at constructing a small - scale bowling alley.

Gene Poor, senior at Kent State University majoring in industrial arts, got the idea of building a bowling alley complete with automatic pin setter after seeing a full - sized one in action. Many of his own unique ideas are incorporated into the listening, efficient alley which delivers the ball back to the

bowler, just like the commercial ones.

With the help of a friend, David Nagy, an Elyrian who works for Sashko Welding and Fabricating Co., in Olmsted Falls, Poor constructed a model, formica alley that's 30 feet long, one - third the size of an actual alley. The pins and balls which are scaled to the size of the alley, were purchased in Cleveland.

Dominant in basement

Poor, who lives on campus, has been coming home every weekend for several months

staying with his mother, Mrs. May Kennedy, 715 Bond St. The alley, however is located in the home of Poor's aunt, Mrs. Geraldine Bickers, 943 North West River St. The alley more or less dominates the basement of his aunt's home where there was more room than in his own basement.

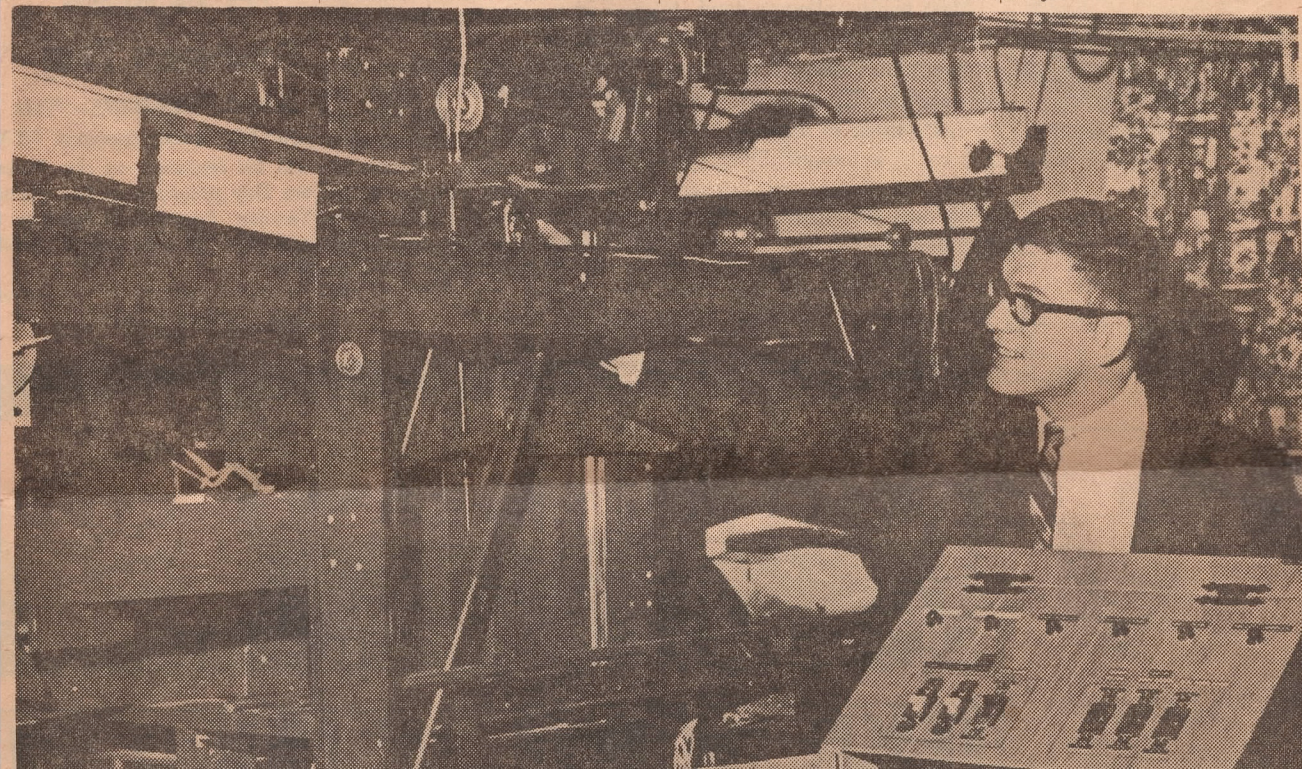
"I built the alley by trial and error," said Poor. It took him approximately 1000 hours of tedious work and concentration. Poor used about 800 feet of wire, and over 5000 screws.

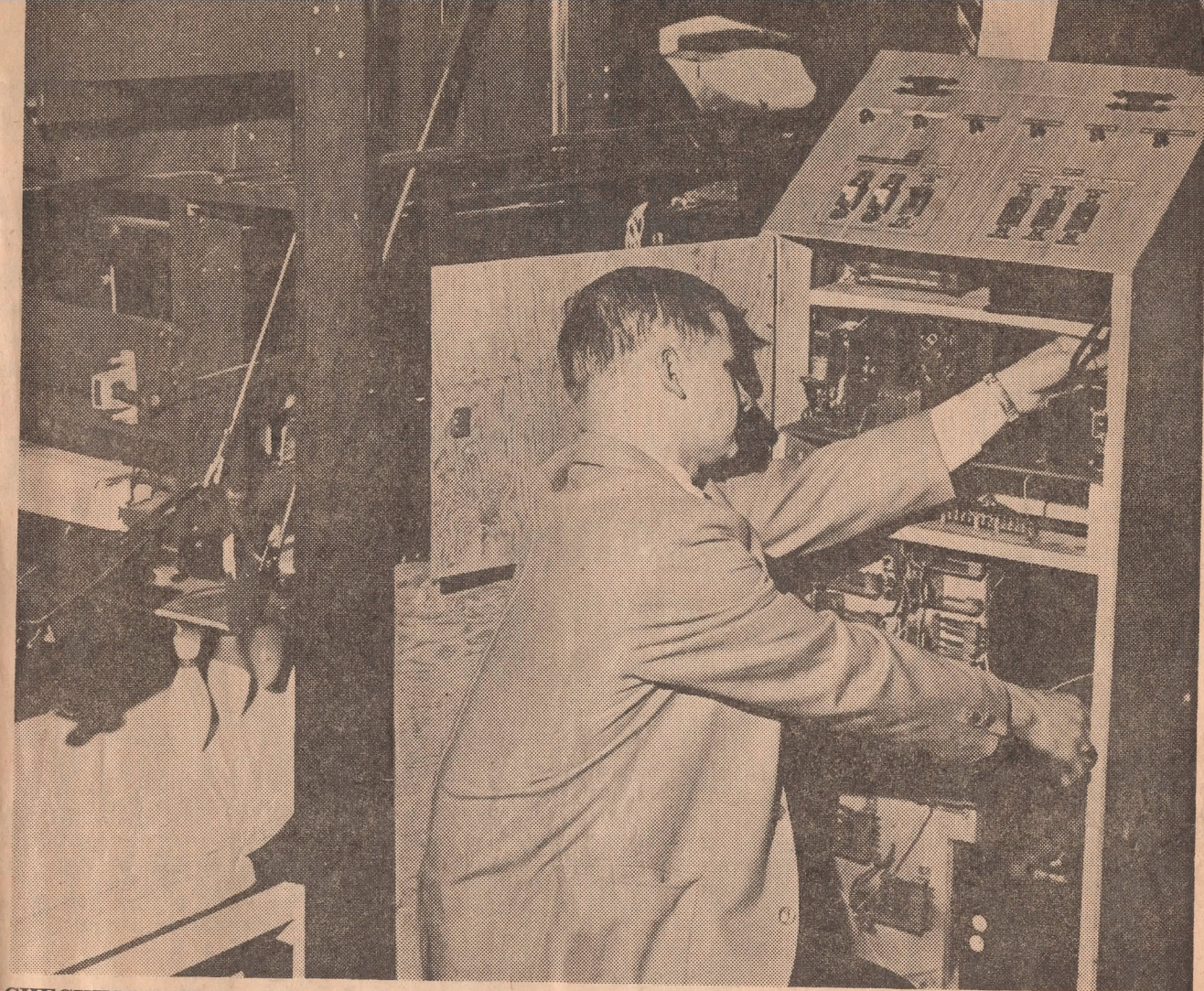
Power for the automatic pin setter is supplied by 11 motors, which run on 110 voltage.

Although the construction of the miniature bowling alley started out as merely an unusual hobby for Poor, he hopes to use the project for college credit, possibly as the subject of a magazine article.

High ingenuity

According to his mother, Poor isn't the best bowler in town, but she admits he scored high in ingenuity with the miniature alley.





CHECKING OUT the complicated equipment of the home-made automatic pin-setter are builder and de-

signer Gene Poor, standing, and helper David Nagy, sitting.